

Presentation

Topics related to the understanding and modelling of salt-water intrusion processes in groundwater systems constitute a subject of increasing interest to many hydrogeologists and other scientists and professionals related to water resources development and management. A large scientific community is working on these topics mainly due to an increasing pressure to further develop groundwater resources in coastal areas, to the complex hydrogeological settings and flow patterns existing in many of these aquifers, and to the negative impacts in water-quality observed in areas affected by salinization.

The present volume is the outcome of a scientific meeting held in Cartagena, Spain, from 31 May to 3 June 2004, dealing with the most relevant aspects of salt-water intrusion and related fields. This publication contains a selection of 59 peer-reviewed papers presented to the 18th edition of the Salt Water Intrusion Meeting (SWIM), a regular meeting that has been held, mostly in European countries, every two years since 1968. The meeting brought the attention of more than 130 scientists covering a wide field of expertise, where near 100 presentations and posters have shown the recent advances and developments in the understanding and modelling of the processes related to salt-water intrusion. The Technical University of Cartagena (UPTC) and the Geological Survey of Spain (IGME), with the support and contribution of several International and National Organizations and Institutes, jointly organized the meeting. The IGME has also contributed to the publication of this volume, which has been included in the Series of Hydrogeology and Groundwater, edited by the Institute.

The reader will find interesting contributions from scientists of all continents, showing the multi-disciplinary nature and current status of the scientific issues and research tools available to address this important hydrogeological topic.

The Director General of IGME
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